



# Patricia Jursik *Update*

8<sup>th</sup> District Milwaukee County Supervisor Patricia Jursik  
901 N. 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Courthouse RM 201, Milwaukee, WI 53233  
Phone: 414-278-4231 Fax: 414-223-1380  
E-mail: [patricia.jursik@milwcnty.com](mailto:patricia.jursik@milwcnty.com)  
Website: <http://www.milwaukee.gov/Jursik>



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E-NEWS

## COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Economic &  
Community  
Development, Chair

Finance, Personnel  
& Audit

Transportation,  
Public Works &  
Transit

## SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Lake Parkway  
Extension Advisory  
Committee, Chair

Aging & Disability  
Resource Center  
(ADRC) Governing  
Board

Milwaukee Art  
Museum, Trustee

Milwaukee County  
Federated Library  
System, Trustee

Milwaukee County  
Research Park  
Corporation Board

Milwaukee Gateway  
Aerotropolis  
Corporation

## Public Trust Doctrine and Future of the Transit Center

Last summer, the County Executive presented a proposal for the sale and redevelopment of the Downtown Transit Center. “The Couture” would introduce a 44-story apartment/hotel structure to the land west of Discovery World. At that time, I voted to thoroughly investigate this proposal to ensure that any land sale complies with the Public Trust Doctrine and provides fair market value to Milwaukee County.

I have researched the status of the land parcel in question. The group Preserve Our Parks has presented maps suggesting that this land may have been a section of Lake Michigan that was filled. If this is, in fact, filled lakebed, then it may be subject to the Public Trust Doctrine which requires strictly public use. Responding to Preserve Our Parks, the Wisconsin DNR [opined](#) that the parcel does not fall under the Public Trust Doctrine since any filling would have occurred before statehood. Still, there are significant questions.

I will be addressing these issues as a panelist on *Behind the Headlines: Whose Lake Front Is It?* on Tuesday February 12, 2013, as the Milwaukee Press Club presents a look at one of the hottest issues affecting downtown Milwaukee. This event will be held at Foley & Lardner’s conference room on the 40<sup>th</sup> floor of the U.S. Bank Building, 777 E. Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee, WI 53202. Other panelists include Rick Barrett (the potential developer of the Couture), Dan Keegan (Director of the Milwaukee Art Museum) and Rocky Marcoux (City of Milwaukee Development Commissioner). Anyone interested in attending should visit [www.milwaukeeclub.org](http://www.milwaukeeclub.org)

## Proposal to Revise County Government

Joseph Sanfelippo, having accepted full-time pay as a county supervisor for over four years, was elected to the Wisconsin Assembly and promptly drafted a bill to make Milwaukee County supervisors’ pay “part-time.” While the proposed bill purports to put an issue before the voters by asking if pay should be reduced to \$15,000, the bill would actually require cuts without voter approval because the bill also limits the County Board and its support services to 0.04% of the total tax levy, an amount that requires cuts of about 85%.

I want to assure constituents that I will complete my services as promised in my oath of office irrespective of the pay issue. I have found my services on the Board require my full-time attention. Please note the many committees on which I serve listed in the margin, including Finance, which holds budget hearings, a lengthy and time-consuming task. These committees and attention to constituent requests do require many hours. Also, as a chair for the Committee on Economic & Community Development, many additional hours are required to oversee these issues and plan agenda. I have taken seriously my role as a watchdog in which I fully research County land sale proposals,

Hoan Bridge demolition studies, the potential extension of Lake Parkway (794), the condition of our parks and transportation services, and other matters and then advocate in the interests of my constituents.

I believe the Board should hold some type of public hearing, perhaps in the Committee on Intergovernmental Relations, to ask our citizens what kind of government they want. Is metro government appropriate? How can we blend County services with municipal services? Should the entire region currently served by the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC) for planning also be governed by elected officers over a seven-county area? Should State government return to part-time status with two sessions per year only? It makes sense to put all options on the table. What do you think? I would be interested in hearing from you.

## **Seven Bridges**

The Parks Department is working to have the contractor rectify ravine damage during lakeside bridge reconstruction at Seven Bridges trail in Grant Park. Of course, the good news is that Seven Bridges will finally be restored come Spring of 2013.



Along with the Parks Department and engineering staff, I met with the Friends of Grant Park in January. The Friends are alarmed at the ravine damage and want to ensure the area is properly restored with native vegetation and clean soils. They have offered to assist with volunteer hours. I am in awe of wonderful groups like the Friends of Grant Park and thank them for their passion and work.

## **Oak Creek Watercourse**

I continue to press for the Milwaukee County Parks Department and the City of South Milwaukee to work out an agreement for the maintenance of the Oak Creek Watercourse. These agencies are putting their formal responsibilities in writing and hope to finalize an agreement in March 2013.

Years ago, informal agreements were made. At that time, I understand that the City accepted responsibility for the concrete-lined channels that it had installed, while the County agreed to maintain the natural areas. In recent years, sediment, fallen trees, and vegetation have filled areas of the Creek and residents have expressed concern.

The County has budgeted for streambank stabilization in the Oak Creek which will help

to prevent additional sediment from accumulating downstream in the Mill Pond.

Ultimately, our residents will need to determine the status of Mill Pond and the dam and the level of funding that the community is willing to invest.

### **Sheridan Lagoon Open for Skating**

It is wonderful to see the skaters and ice hockey players outside and active. Please check out our [winter activities in the Parks!](#)



### **Hunting/Trapping Proposal**

I have heard from many concerned residents about the possible acquisition of land adjacent to Bender Park. The grant that might be awarded by the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program would require a County ordinance change to allow some form of hunting and trapping. I had discussed the details of this proposal [here](#).

Several of my constituents have asked that we acquire the land in an alternate way. They have also expressed concern about amending our ordinances to allow hunting and trapping. Some of these residents worry that it would be difficult to enforce regulations and permits; that 95 acres is a small land area to allow hunting and trapping; and that the safety of other parks users could be jeopardized.

I understand that a public hearing will be held on this issue, but a date has not yet been set. I continue to monitor this matter and will update you as it develops. I welcome your thoughts on the proposed changes.

### **Succession Planning**

Our real estate office recently lost all three of its employees to retirement. I very much respected the historical knowledge and highly professional work of our real estate staff. With the loss of this staff, the County has no one to continue negotiations for our many real estate projects or to do sales of properties taken in tax foreclosures.

These departures highlight a pattern in Milwaukee County in which our services are suffering a brain drain as we lose knowledgeable employees with decades of experience. Behavioral health is one of the most devastating examples of this loss of dedicated personnel. Milwaukee County has been running a lean ship since the Walker administration.

I have advised the County Executive's office that the County needs to engage in aggressive succession planning to address current and anticipated vacancies. Our



departments need to train and prepare qualified individuals to fill the shoes of those who leave County service.

## **Emergency Management**

Did you know that Milwaukee County coordinates countywide Emergency Management? Emergency Management focuses on preparedness, response and recovery.

One task of Emergency Management is to create a plan for various emergencies. Emergency Management participants recently circulated a video of strategies to respond if there was an active shooter in your workplace or place of study. You may view it here: [RUN. FIGHT. HIDE.](#)

## **Franklin Facility: House of Correction or Jail?**

Last month, my newsletter informed you about the Sheriff's lawsuit against the county to make the House of Correction (HOC) in Franklin serve primarily as a jail. This month I'd like to outline some of the rehabilitative programs offered by a House of Correction, but not by a jail.

**Electronic Monitoring:** This is a program that allows non-violent offenders to serve their sentence in a confined area, such as their home. It uses GPS monitoring to validate compliance.

**Huber Release:** This program is also called Work Release. Offenders are allowed to leave the HOC during daytime hours to remain actively employed. Generally, only offenders that receive sentences of six months or less are confined to the HOC. Huber allows such offenders to retain their jobs so that they do not become unemployed after short-term sentences. An example of such an individual would be a repeat drunk driver.

**Day Reporting Center:** This facility is located on Mitchell Street and provides programming and testing for offenders. It allows individuals to complete GED courses, teaches literacy, and provides alcohol/drug treatment and counseling. Like Huber, these programs are provided to give offenders skills to prepare them for re-entry back to the community and to find gainful employment.

Our neighborhoods and communities will be safer when we fully adopt best practices for reducing crime and recidivism. Evidence-based practices confirm that assistance results in better outcomes than punitive confinement. A smarter corrections system will also demand fewer taxpayer dollars as opposed to warehousing offenders.

The court will hold a scheduling conference on the Sheriff's lawsuit on February 5, 2013. I will continue to keep you updated on this critical lawsuit.

## **Kelly Senior Center**

I have heard from residents who are concerned about the future of Kelly Senior Center. In response, I met with the Director of the Department on Aging, Stephanie Sue Stein. She assured me that there is no truth to the rumors; Kelly Senior Center is scheduled to remain open and its lunchtime [nutrition program](#) will continue.

Both the [Grobschmidt Senior Center](#) in South Milwaukee and [Kelly Senior Center](#) in Cudahy provide important services. I encourage you to check out all that they have to offer!

## **Community Calendar**

### **February 1 (Noon to 6pm) and 2 (9:30 to 6pm) – [Chinese New Year](#) Celebration**

At The Domes, 524 S. Layton Blvd. 649-9830. [Regular admission applies.](#)

### **Saturday, February 2 – Family FREE Day at the Zoo, 9:30am-4:30pm**

All visitors receive free admission. The parking fee remains in effect. Wynter the groundhog will make her expert weather prediction at 10:30 a.m. At Milwaukee County Zoo, 10001 West Blue Mound Road, Milwaukee. [milwaukeezoo.org](http://milwaukeezoo.org) 256-5466

### **Mondays, starting February 4 – A Crafty Valentine Celebration, 9-11am**

Make cards, candies and other creative projects. No craft experience necessary. Fee: \$8 for 4 weeks. At Kelly Senior Center at 6100 S. Lake Dr., Cudahy, 481-9611.

### **Wednesday, February 6 – Stress Reduction for Healthy Aging, 2pm**

Valuable tips and tools to reduce stress and improve your health are presented by Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare. At Kelly Senior Center at 6100 S. Lake Dr., Cudahy, 481-9611.

### **Thursday, February 7 – County Board Meeting, 9:30am**

At Milwaukee County Courthouse, Room 200

### **Tuesday, February 12 – Friends of Mill Pond meeting, 6:30pm**

At Marquette Manor (2409 10<sup>th</sup> Av, South Milwaukee). 571-1191 [www.smfomp.org](http://www.smfomp.org)

### **Wednesday, February 13 – SM Lions Blood Drive, 2-6pm**

Walk-ins are welcome. At the Knights of Columbus Hall, 732 Badger Av, South Milwaukee. 762-5252

### **Thursday, February 14 – Nutrition Education: Choosing Healthy Foods, 10am**

The UW-Extension Nutrition Program explains how to choose foods that are best for you. At Kelly Senior Center at 6100 S. Lake Dr., Cudahy. Please call 481-9611 to preregister.

### **Thursday, February 14 – Grant Park Watch & Friends of Grant Park meeting, 6:30pm**

At Grant Park Clubhouse, 100 Hawthorne Av, South Milwaukee. Park Watch: 764-7262 and Friends of Grant Park: 764-0612 [www.fogp.org](http://www.fogp.org)

### **Thursday, February 14 – Valentine Sweetheart Night, 6:30-8:30pm**

Streetlife with Warren Wiegratz performs R&B, cool jazz and contemporary favorites. Visitors enjoy free photo booth pictures. At The Domes, 524 S. Layton Blvd. 649-9830. [Regular admission applies.](#)

### **Saturday, February 16 – [Poland Under Glass](#), 9am-4pm**

At The Domes, 524 S. Layton Blvd. 649-9830. [Regular admission applies.](#)

### **Wednesday, February 20 – The Invisible Threat of Identity Theft, 9:30am**

Presented by Wisconsin Women's Business Initiative Corporation. Learn how to protect yourself and your family from identity theft. At Kelly Senior Center at 6100 S. Lake Dr., Cudahy. Please call 481-9611 to preregister.

### **Wednesday, February 27 – Cudahy Neighborhood Watch meeting, 6pm**

At Cudahy Family Library, 3500 Library Dr., Cudahy. 414-324-5531

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#### **Ongoing:**

#### **THE DOMES**

#### **Music Under Glass, Thursdays until March 31 6:30-8:30pm**

Enjoy the new lighting of the domes with light shows at the break and following the concert. At The Domes, 524 S. Layton Blvd. 649-9830. [Regular admission applies.](#) Check out the schedule of music [here](#).



## ICE SKATING

**At Sheridan Park Lagoon**, 4800 S. Lake Dr, Cudahy  
Bring your own skates. Open weather permitting.  
Call 257-PARK (7275) for current conditions.

**At Red Arrow Park**, 920 N. Water St, Milwaukee  
(accessed via the Green Line, [www.ridemcts.com](http://www.ridemcts.com))  
FREE rink. Skate rental: \$7 (ages 17 and under) or  
\$8 (18+) (includes tax) or bring your own.  
Enjoy the adjacent warming house  
with restrooms and hot beverages! Closed for  
blizzard, wind chill or cold weather advisories  
from the National Weather Service. Details:  
<http://county.milwaukee.gov/RedArrow11930.htm>

**Sheridan Lagoon** is now open!  
Lights will be turned on daily until  
8pm. The warming house will be  
open on weekends from 10am to  
8pm.

**Red Arrow Rink** is open  
WEATHER PERMITTING

### Hours

Dec. 26-30: 10am-Midnight  
Dec. 31: 10am-1am  
Jan. 1-3: 10am-8pm

Jan. 4 - Feb. 3:  
Mon.-Th.: 11am-8pm  
Fri.-Sat.: 11am-11pm  
Sun.: 11am-6pm

## MILWAUKEE PUBLIC MUSEUM

**"Real Pirates" exhibit – through May 27, 2013**



Experience the Golden Age of Piracy aboard the Whydah, one of the most successful pirate ships of her day, and learn about her roots as a slave ship and subsequent takeover and conversion into a pirate ship in the early 1700s. In 1717, a storm put an end to the Whydah's sailing days, and she sank with most of her crew aboard—as well as the bounty from more than 50 captured ships. Centuries later, underwater explorer Barry Clifford and his team located the wreck and painstakingly unearthed her treasures, making her the first fully authenticated pirate ship ever to be discovered in U.S. waters. Organized by National Geographic and Arts and Exhibitions International.

Visit [www.mpm.edu/pirates/visit/](http://www.mpm.edu/pirates/visit/) for rates and information.